

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

21. (New) A security alarm system comprising:

at least one battery powered wireless keypad comprising a Radio Frequency (RF) receiver and a reduced display module; and

an AC powered control panel comprising an RF transmitter comprising a means for transmitting first periodic sync signals which are received and used by the RF receiver to maintain proper synchronization of the receiver with the RF transmitter during second periodic wake up windows for possible transmissions of data, and means for transmitting data during at least some of the second periodic wake up windows for the transmission of data;

wherein the receiver wakes periodically to receive first periodic sync signals which are used by the receiver to maintain the receiver properly synchronized with the transmitter during the second periodic wake up windows for possible transmissions of data from the transmitter; and

wherein the receiver wakes periodically for a short duration at the start of each second periodic wake up window to receive a possible transmission of data, and if no transmission is received goes back to sleep, and if a transmission is received stays awake to receive the full transmission of data, such that the average current consumed by the battery powered receiver to wake periodically to receive the first periodic sync signals to maintain synchronization and to wake periodically to listen for the possible second periodic transmissions of data is less than the average current required to maintain the receiver awake continuously.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the transmitter further comprises means for transmitting the first periodic sync signals over short durations and with a periodicity such that a total of all of the first periodic sync signals over a period of one hour are equal to or less than a total of 2 second on-air time per hour.

23. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for transmitting during the second periodic wake up windows transmits with a periodicity of 3 seconds, such that the average response time of the battery powered receiver to changes reflected by the transmissions of data is less than 1.5 seconds on average and no greater than 3 seconds in the worst case.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the transmitter and receiver each further comprise clocks, the clocks in the transmitter and receiver having no more than a 2 millisecond time shift relative to each other.

25. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the receiver further comprises a primary battery cell of less than 2 amp-hour capacity which operates for more than 3 years before the battery is discharged.

26. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the transmitter transmits periodic RF messages comprising the present status of the security alarm system to the reduced display module to provide a display of the current status of the security alarm system.

27. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for transmitting during the second periodic wake up windows transmits with a periodicity of 3 seconds, such that the average response time of the battery powered receiver to changes reflected by the transmissions of data is less than 1.5 seconds on average and no greater than 3 seconds in the worst case.

28. (New) A method of synchronizing a security alarm system comprising at least one battery powered wireless keypad comprising a Radio Frequency (RF) receiver and a reduced display module, and an AC powered control panel comprising an RF transmitter, the method comprising:

transmitting, by the transmitter, first periodic sync signals which are received and used by the receiver to maintain proper synchronization of the receiver with the transmitter during second periodic wake up windows for possible transmissions of data;

transmitting, by the transmitter, data during at least some of the second periodic wake up windows for the possible transmission of data;

waking the receiver periodically to receive the first periodic sync signals which are used by the receiver to maintain the receiver properly synchronized with the transmitter during the second periodic wake up windows for possible transmissions of data from the transmitter;

waking the receiver periodically for a short duration at the start of each second periodic wake up window to receive a possible transmission of data, and if no transmission is received putting the receiver to sleep, and if a transmission is received keeping the receiver awake to receive the full transmission of data, such that the average current consumed by the battery powered receiver waking periodically to receive the first periodic sync signals to maintain

synchronization and waking periodically to listen for the possible second periodic transmissions of data is less than the average current required for keeping the receiver awake continuously.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein transmitting the first periodic sync signals is accomplished over short durations and with a periodicity such that a total of all of the first periodic sync signals over a period of one hour are equal to or less than a total of 2 second on-air time per hour.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the periodicity of the second periodic wake up windows is 3 seconds, such that the average response time of the battery powered receiver to changes reflected by the transmissions of data is less than 1.5 seconds on average and no greater than 3 seconds in the worst case.

31. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising operating the receiver with a primary battery cell of less than 2 amp-hour capacity for more than 3 years before the battery is discharged.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising transmitting periodic RF messages comprising the present status of the security alarm system to the reduced display module to provide a display of the current status of the security alarm system.